

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6 1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200 DALLAS, TX 75202-2733 December 22, 2004

CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT: 70010360000112669895

James C. Morriss III Thompson & Knight LLP 1900 San Jacinto Center 98 San Jacinto Boulevard Austin, Texas 78701-4081

RE: Gulfco Marine Maintenance Superfund Site in Freeport Texas

Dear Mr. Morriss:

This letter is in response to your November 29, 2004 letter and redline-strikeout of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) for a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Gulfco Marine Maintenance Superfund Site and the discussions EPA has had with you regarding issues raised by the Potentially Responsible Party Group (PRP Group).

EPA has considered the issues raised and the changes recommended by the PRP Group and has revised the AOC. EPA is enclosing two versions of the revised AOC. The first is a marked up version of the AOC showing our latest changes in redline/strikeout. The second version is a clean copy for signature.

EPA believes it is reasonable to expect these negotiations be concluded by the end of January. In order to accomplish that, EPA would like a mark-up of the Statement of Work by the middle of January.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (214) 665-2157.

Sincerely,

Bailan A. Nann

Barbara A. Nann Assistant Regional Counsel

Enclosures

cc:

Bill Mailey Alan Daniels